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LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the comments of an Iraqi spokesman on the fallacious statement made on 5 April 1994 by the official spokesman for the United States Department of State.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Comments by an Iraqi spokesman on the statement made on 5 April 1994 by the spokesman for the United States Department of State

An official spokesman said today in Baghdad that the accusation made on 5 April 1994 by Michael McCurry, the spokesman for the United States Department of State, that the Iraqi Government was behind the murder of a number of foreigners in the Kurdistan region was absurd and showed the extent to which the Department of State was seeking to deceive public opinion as to the true nature of the bad and still deteriorating security situation in the area.

The spokesman pointed out that the Kurdistan region, which was under United States protection and control, was experiencing great disturbances and was teeming with armed elements and thieves. People there did not dare go out at night or travel from one town or village to another, and murders and robberies on the roads in Kurdistan were almost daily occurrences.

The spokesman said that the newspapers of the armed groups in the Kurdistan region were clamouring with complaints and criticisms of the deteriorating security situation and were daily accusing the Kurdish authorities of being unable to control their armed elements. From time to time, they reported the assaults and robberies committed by such armed elements, which sometimes deteriorated into fighting among themselves over the spoils and to the public exchange, among the warlords Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani and other leaders of the bands armed by the Americans, of accusations of responsibility for the deterioration of security in the area.

The spokesman went on to say that the accusation made by the United States Department of State against the Iraqi Government was an evident deception engaged in for propaganda and political purposes and was to be seen in the context of the blindly hostile United States attitude towards Iraq.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baghdad